Kerri Bono 12/18/12

“Au Revoir les Enfants” Summary

The movie starts off with two young boys about to board a train and saying goodbye to their mother. One boy is older, one is younger. The younger boy is named Julien Quentin and the older, Francais Quentin. When they arrive at Carmelite boarding school, there is a large group of boys all wearing the same thing, and walking in an orderly fashion singing. It’s a religious school, and they have must obey every rule. The school consists of all boys, no girls. There is a man they call “Father,” who is also they priest of the church they all go to. Eventually, a new student named Jean Bonnet arrives at the school, and he doesn’t necessarily fit in at first with everyone. He got bullied a lot, and gets into fights. A lot of people thinks he tries too hard. One day in class, an alarm sounds off, and the kids all seem to know it means there’s an air-raid. Everyone files down to this other room and the teacher says that they must continue class.

Next, a woman arrives to teach them piano. Jean is surprisingly good at playing it and Julien gets quite angry. They go to the public baths, in which they all haven’t bathed in over 2 weeks. Julien finds by going through Bonnets belonging, that he is Jewish. He finds that his real name is “Jean Kippelstein.” He also realizes that by staying at the boarding school, he will be hidden from the Krauts who are trying to get rid of all the Jewish people. By staying at the school, Jean is hoping to fit in and stay hidden from them. Jean and Julien go outside for recess; playing a game to find a treasure. When they realize that they’re the only ones left in the woods, they get stopped and arrested and brought back to the school by German soldiers. On visitor’s day, Jean tries to go up and pray at church like the rest of the kids, but the priest skips over him, knowing that he’s Jewish and is not allowed to. They then go to a restaurant in which the Krauts walk in, asking for people’s papers. The restaurant is supposed to not allow Jews, but luckily, Jean doesn’t get caught. At the end of the movie, the Krauts catch Jean and the rest of the hidden Jews among the school. Jean gets put into a concentration camp, Auschwitz, and later gets killed. Julien never gets to say goodbye to his good friend Jean.

Likes/Dislikes:

I liked this movie a lot. I thought it was a very interesting story and moral. I feel like it made you not want to stop watching and you always wanted to know what was going to happen next. I liked how it was suspenseful, and it was easy to follow even if it was in French. It had had a twist at the end how Jean dies. I also liked how Julien got along with Jean and became close with him when no one else was.

What I disliked about this movie was how I didn’t like the ending; how Jean dies and Julien never got to say goodbye. He was just left there by himself. Jean was really the only friend Julien had. Also, I disliked how Julien was sort of sneaky about finding out that Jean was Jewish, and he was holding it against him that he knew about it. He found out by looking through all of his belongings and his locker to find the truth, rather than just talking and being honest about it with him.